

TOWN Reminder

FREE
September 4, 2020
Vol. 52, No. 17

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

Serving the town of South Hadley

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Sullivan shares statistical studies

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – South Hadley's COVID-19 statistics improved this week, as the number of active cases decreased, but the town's progression must continue if it seeks to reach the success neighboring communities have achieved.

Town Administrator Mike Sullivan has crunched a seemingly endless amount of data during the past six months. Rather than analyze specific case

counts, Sullivan is relying more heavily on a different metric in his attempts to identify South Hadley's current standing.

"One of the things that I've come to realize is that one of the best measures is the percent positivity rate, if you're going to make comparisons to other communities," said Sullivan. "It's formulated on 100,000 people per community and through formulas and calculations it evens everything out."

The percent positivity rate adheres to the percentage of

residents who test positive for COVID-19 when given the assessment. Last week, South Hadley's overall percentage was 2.4; this week it is 1.87%.

"That sounds really good, but Amherst is a community roughly twice the size of South Hadley's population and has a percentage of 0.1. We have 211 [confirmed] cases, and they have 126 cases. They're two-week case count is six; our two-week case count is 18," said Sullivan on Sept. 1.

Sullivan added that the positivity rate is 1.43% in Holyoke,

1.22% in Chicopee, 1.31% in Northampton, .82% in Westfield and 1.69% in Springfield. South Hadley's degree of concern is unclear, as more answers are being sought.

"When I started making these comparisons it was really eye-opening," said Sullivan. "South Hadley, for whatever reason, is not doing as well as other communities. I think there are a lot of questions to be asked as to

Please see **SULLIVAN**,
page 5

Primary elections draw voters in South Hadley



Photos by Melina Bourdeau

There was a line of voters waiting to get into the polls outside of South Hadley High School on Tuesday.

Granby voters favored Kennedy

SOUTH HADLEY – There was an almost 50% voter turnout, with 45.86% turnout on Sept. 1. Five thousand four hundred fifty-four voters cast their ballot out of 11,894 registered voters.

On the Republican ballot, Shiva Ayyadurai received 345 votes and Kevin O'Connor had 374. O'Connor won at the state level and will face off against Markey in the November election.

There were 12 write-ins and three blank ballots for a total of 734 Republican ballots cast.

On the Democratic ballot, Senator Edward Markey received 2,516 votes and Joseph Kennedy III received 2,121 votes. With no contest on the November ballot Markey appears to have secured the seat.

Similarly, incumbent Rep. Richard Neal won the primary against Holyoke Mayor Alex Morse. Locally, 2,626 voters chose Neal and 2,039 voted for Morse.

Mary Hurley ran unopposed for councilor, receiving 3,882 votes in South Hadley. She is running unopposed on the Nov. ballot

Sen. Joanne Comerford received 3,924 votes for renomi-



Thirty-eight percent of voters in Granby voted in the September primary, some of which voted in person at Granby High School.

nation. She is currently running unopposed on the Nov. ballot.

Rep. Daniel Carey also secured a spot for renomination and is running unopposed on the Nov. ballot. He received 3,872 votes in South Hadley.

Michael Carey received 3,821 votes for the position of register of probate. He is running unopposed on the Nov. ballot.

Granby election

In Granby, there was a 38% turnout with 1,813 ballots cast, according to Granby Town Clerk Kathy Kelly-Regan.

"(It was) mostly due to the mail-in ballots (1,165), however still a very good turnout in person on election day with 648

voters, or 14% that showed in person," she said.

On the Democratic ballot, Senator Edward Markey received 657 votes to Rep. Joseph Kennedy III's 775 votes. Markey won the primary against Kennedy at the state level.

With 742 votes, Rep. Richard Neal beat Mayor of Holyoke Alex Morse, who received 692 votes.

Running unopposed on the ballot, Mary Hurley received 1,207 votes for Councilor in the Eighth District.

First Hampden and Hampshire District Senator Eric Les-

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Fitzgerald praises SHEL D team

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – Morale is high at the South Hadley Electric Light Dept. reported General Manager Sean Fitzgerald when he discussed a successful month of August during SHEL D's Board of Commissioners meeting last Thursday.

"We have an incredible team here that is really dedicated. It makes a difference. The response times are incredible," said Fitzgerald, referencing the department's rapid response to a weather event that occurred on Aug. 5 around 4:30 p.m.

In a summer of unforgiving storms, Tropical Storm Isaias may be remembered as the worst in South Hadley.

"The damage was extensive with winds up to 50 mph, snapping multiple large trees, limbs, utility polls; downing transformers mostly north of Mount Holyoke College, especially along Silver St., Amherst Rd. and Silver Rd.," said Fitzgerald.

Fortunately, only five percent of SHEL D's customers lost power, amounting to 391 households. The vast majority saw their power returned within 24 hours, and the longest outage was remedied within two days.

Fitzgerald thanked the Middleton Electric Light Dept.

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Correction

In last week's issue, the story "South Hadley's teen COVID-19 problem" it was incorrectly reported that the local teens attended a local university.

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COMMUNITY

Neighbors Helping Neighbors



Brewery honors fallen officer



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Talk Like A Pirate Day



SPORTS, 10

Preparing for a new fall



Justin Bonsignore gets the victory



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Fire District 2, Mount Holyoke partner on emergency calls

SOUTH HADLEY – Through a new partnership between South Hadley Fire District 2 and Mount Holyoke College, underway since early August, the district’s emergency dispatch services will be handled by the college’s dispatch center, operated by the school’s Public Safety and Service Department.

While maintaining or improving the quality of dispatch services for the District, the partnership is also saving the district \$70,000 a year, based on past allocations for dispatch service.

“We could not be happier with this new approach, said District 2 Fire Chief Todd Calkins. “The solid working relationship between the District and the College gives us an opportunity to try something new to protect the District and save money at the same time.”

District 2 spans much of the northern half of South Hadley, including the college and part of Granby, and provides fire safety, ambulance, EMT and other services.

A memorandum of understanding was executed this summer between the District and the College. Instrumental to negotiating that agreement were the District’s Prudential Committee, led by James Menard, and Chief Calkins. Former Committee member Kenneth McKenna also played a key role. On the college side were Ray LaBarre, director of public safety and service, Shannon Gurek, vice president for finance and administration, and Kevin McCaffrey, director of government and community relations.

Under the arrangement, 911 calls from the district, for either fire or ambulance services, are routed to the college’s



Courtesy photos

Fire District 2’s emergency dispatch will be handled by Mount Holyoke College’s dispatch center as part of a new partnership between the college and the town.

dispatch center, which then connects to first responders at the district. That center, part of a recently build facility, is equipped with state-of-the-art equipment. Dispatchers have been trained on their new roles, and communication be-

tween the district and college is ongoing.

According to Ray LaBarre, director of Mount Holyoke’s public safety and service department, “The college already has a close relationship with the district that goes back for many years. This new arrangement is built on that foundation and should serve the community well.”


Under the arrangement, the district will pay the College \$50,000 a year for services that had been costing \$120,000. At the same time, the College is in the midst of a multi-year commitment to contribute \$400,000 towards a new firetruck for South Hadley’s Fire District 1 and an ambulance for District 2. In recent years, the college has also contributed an additional \$20,000 per year to District 2 for equipment acquisition.




South Hadley District 2 Fire Chief Todd Calkins and Mount Holyoke Dispatcher Alex Gonzalez recently met as part of the recent partnership between the two groups.

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September 14, 2012



Cousins Jonny Yee of Holyoke (left) and Sean Rondeau of South Hadley (right) face each other for the final time on the football field. Rondeau’s South Hadley Tigers won the game, 38-7.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors calls on community

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – The Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Pantry on Carew St. has been a staple of the community in both South Hadley and Granby for more than a decade. This fall and winter, the operation’s importance will continue to increase.

The pantry has served residents all throughout the pandemic, whose arrival in western Massachusetts coincided with the beginning of spring. When the cold season greets the region in a mere matter of weeks, food insecurity will rise, and the pantry’s demand will soar.

“I’ve been thinking about winter all summer for a number of reasons,” said NHN Manager, Mary Lou Guarnera. “You need more fuel in the wintertime, and I’m just so concerned about a lot of these people because there are many that are going to be in crisis when it gets really cold.”

Adjusting to the new normal has challenged the pantry often over the past six months, as many the operation’s longtime volunteers are currently unable to serve due to health concerns. An onslaught of new faces has entered the fold, all contributing with distinction.

“These are all new volunteers; very few of the volunteers we used to have are here because they fall into one of the categories where they’re supposed to stay home,” said Guarnera. “We have teachers and students; it’s heartwarming to see the way people have come out to help their neighbors.”

Residents of all backgrounds have stepped up, but there remains a substantial need for further support. Those looking to pitch in can do so by donating food or money or by volunteering at the pantry, where numerous safety protocols have



Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Pantry volunteer Pat O'Connor hands off a bag of food to client Jim Gray.



Volunteer Pat O'Connor stands with pantry manager Mary Lou Guarnera outside of the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Pantry on Sept. 2.



Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Pantry on Carew St. is open and serviceable, but new COVID-19 protocols have been put in place to best ensure the safety of clients and volunteers.

While O'Connor’s positivity is a certainty, the extent of hunger that will strike South Hadley and Granby in the coming months is not. Guarnera noted that the Bag the Community fundraiser, the pantry’s most impactful annual food drive, is unlikely to occur in January 2021.

Guarnera made her concerns apparent, but her confidence in the community has not wavered. The pantry is striving today, and with the community’s help, she is sure it will hurdle whichever obstacles lie ahead.

“I consider this to really be a crisis but really believe that everybody has the ability to control one thing in their lives and that’s your attitude,” she said. “You can either let circumstances overwhelm you or say, ‘I’m going to live my life the best I can and maybe help somebody else in the meantime.’ It’s time to rally the troops and donate food or money.”

The Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Pantry can be reached at 413-437-7593 or on Facebook.

Dalton Zbierski is a staff writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

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Managing Editor Eileen Kennedy at ekennedy@turley.com.

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Growing dirt bike, ATV problem at Bynan

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – Of the 15 conservation lands in the town of South Hadley, Bynan Conservation Area is seeing the most dirt bikes and ATVs, however, all motor vehicles are prohibited at each of the town’s recreational sites.

This problem is not new according to the Conservation Department.

“We’ve been having a real uptick in dirt bike and ATV use at Bynan. That has been an issue there for decades. It’s a very popular place to ride, and we’ve gotten numerous complaints about it this season,” said Anne Capra, Conservation Administrator, during the Aug. 26 meeting of the Conservation Commission.

During the pandemic, the illegal motor vehicle usage on the 162-acre town property has rapidly increased. Capra guessed that stay-at-home orders may have contributed to the trend.

Regardless of the reasoning, residents and business owners who live on nearby streets such as New Ludlow Rd., Granby Rd. and Lyman Terr. are tired of the noisy commotion. The commission spoke about on how to curb the trend.

“This has been going on for years and does have ups and downs. Now, there’s a group of people who seem to be doing this, and then it will stop for a while. When it stops it isn’t because they’re behaving themselves; it’s because there aren’t people who want to do it,” said conservation commission Jim Canning, commission vice-chair.

Town Administrator Mike Sullivan recommended Capra to speak to the town’s insurance agent about the property. The agent urged her to act and told her to document the steps that the town takes to lessen the problem.

One step involves placing boulders at each of the site’s entrances while another involves posting signage. Signage that has been posted in the past is often illegally removed, but more will be added, Capra divulged.

Commission Chair Bill DeLuca voiced confidence in both implementing boulders and adding signage.

“I feel like the boulders are probably not going to physically slow too many people down, but they make a statement that, ‘Hey, we see you and don’t want you in here anymore.’ I wonder if new, obvious annoying signage would make the same statement?” DeLuca said.

Capra has gone to great lengths to increase awareness of the issue. She’s previously posted in the Town Reminder, on the town’s Facebook page and has also spoken with many of those who about Bynan Conservation Area.

“We’ve had some progress and have talked to some people directly. Since some of that outreach has gone out, I think that use has gone down a little bit,” she said.

Installing boulders at both entrances would cost a total of \$2,000. Assistance from law enforcement is not easily accessible, as the South Hadley Police Department and the Department of Conservation and Recreation both have their hands full with “really serious issues on the Connecticut River,” explained Capra after Commission Member Neva Tolopko suggested installing a camera.

“They don’t really have the capacity right now to be out there for us enforcing so we haven’t put a camera out there yet,” said Capra. “We certainly can, and I can share the footage with the police department and the environmental police for whatever effect it might have.”

Canning relayed that the Selectboard has swayed on the issue of

enforcing violations that occur on recreation lands. He agreed with its strategic reasoning for a lack of action.

“They didn’t want to come down hard on people because they didn’t think it would work. My experience with ATVs is the more we try to protect or stop them, it becomes more of an enticing thing for them to get around it,” said Canning.

Canning complimented Capra and the Bike Walk Committee for increasing the usage of trails such as Bynan Conservation Area. He believes that more recreational use will deter others from riding on the trail.

“I think that the people who want to violate the rules are more respectful of the public’s use than they are of our rules,” said Canning. “I would try to do something to spread the word that we’re wanting to occupy our recreation areas and use them to give you feedback from the users, which I think would be a good protective measure without spending a lot of money trying to keep them out with rocks and benches and signs and cameras.”

Before the conversation ended, Capra spoke on the possibility of abolishing the ban of recreational motor vehicles at Bynan Conservation Area. She acknowledged that it might be for the best to allow residents to apply for permits that would allow them to ride on that lone property.

“We’re always fighting this battle about not letting anyone ride anywhere when here’s a place where they really could ride and they do ride,” said Capra. “I don’t know that the deed to the property would allow motorized use on it so I’m not sure that it’s even feasible, but that is one other consideration; to explicitly allow it because there aren’t too many places to ride motorized recreational vehicles.”

"Amor Angela" South Hadley brewery honors fallen Chicopee officer

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – To commemorate fallen Chicopee Police Ofc. Angela Santiago, Drunken Rabbit Brewing collaborated with Santiago’s family to craft a beer in her honor. The South Hadley brewery will donate a portion of all sales to Santiago’s favorite charity, the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee.

Santiago, 33, lost her life unexpectedly on June 16 during an off-duty motorcycle crash on Interstate-91 in East Windsor, CT. In the face of tragedy, Santiago’s family stood tall, inspiring the Drunken Rabbit to make the gesture.

“There’s been a collaboration with the family; the family came in and helped us brew ‘Amor Angela.’ They were part of the process,” said Bruno Coelho, Head Brewer and owner of the Drunken Rabbit on New Ludlow Rd. “We decided to make a sour beer with passion fruit, orange and guava, which are flavors that the family thought she would be all about.”

Santiago’s family joined the staff of the Drunken Rabbit this past Saturday and Sunday at the 10-barrel brewery, which opened in Dec. 2017. Coelho was blown away by the courage and spirit embodied by Santiago’s family.

“This family is very strong, very tight and very close. It was great working with them,” said Coelho. “It was actually a



Courtesy photo

The family of fallen Chicopee police Ofc. Angela Santiago joined the staff of the Drunken Rabbit Brewery this past weekend to craft a beer in her honor.

very uplifting experience for the entire brew crew. We had a blast working with them. They’re just good people who went through something horrible, and we’re super excited to be able to do something positive for them.”

Santiago became Chicopee High School’s School Resource Officer on Feb. 10 and had maintained a steady presence at the Boys & Girls Club on Meadow St. in Chicopee for the past several years. Santiago partook in a variety of events at

the club while interacting with members and staff.

“There’s going to be some proceeds that are going to go towards one of her favorite charities; the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee. The proceeds are going to come from the pints that are sold at the brewery. We’re going to donate a dollar for every pint sold at the brewery,” said Coelho.

The Drunken Rabbit learned of Santiago’s story when contacted by the Hopheads, a local group of craft beer enthusiasts who wanted to further extend Santiago’s positive reach. Coelho plans to work with the group again in the near future to raise awareness for another important community item.

“We’re actually planning a similar type of thing where we’re partnering up with the Connecticut River Conservancy to clean up the Connecticut River,” he said. “We’re making a beer that’s all about cleaning the river; made with in-



Courtesy photo

SRO Angela Santiago, a fallen Chicopee Police Officer.

gredients that were are harvested around the river.”

Focusing on the current task, the further production and sale of ‘Amor Angela,’ Coelho and his team are as motivated as ever. Drawing on the strength of Santiago’s family, Coelho endeavors to do more good.

“I get the feeling that this is another thing that just brought the family closer. It was to commemorate her; there was just such a good synergy there during the brew days,” he said. “It’s kind of reinvigorated us because we tend to be focused a lot on the beer and the art of making the beer, but this kind of allows us to tap into the community and to people being part of it. It’s just such a good vibe. You’re doing something lasting that’s impactful for the community.”

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be contacted at dzbierski@turley.com.



Photo by Dalton Zbierski

The Drunken Rabbit Brewery is a 10-barrel brewery on New Ludlow Rd. in South Hadley.



Photo by Dalton Zbierski

To pay homage to Chicopee Police officer Angela Santiago Drunken Rabbit Brewery made a beer in the officer's name.

SULLIVAN from page 1
why that is happening.”

Sullivan noted that the number of tests given may skew the results. There have been 4,322 tests given since March in South Hadley and 1,243 in the past 14 days while in Springfield there have been 41,415 tests taken since March and more than 6,000 taken in the past two weeks.

“You could argue that both ways,” Sullivan said. “We could say we’re not testing as many or we’re testing a larger percentage of the population, but to be .2% higher than Springfield is pretty interesting. Like every other community, we’re just trying to make sense of all of this data.”

In addition to the 211 confirmed cases, as of Sept. 1, South Hadley has experienced a total of 206 contact cases and nine probable cases since March. At its meeting next week, the Select-board will discuss potential measures that can be taken to limit the caseload.

“People are concerned about other steps we should be taken,” said Sullivan. “Like everyone else, we’re trying to get through the day and advise people. I’m not sure that closing the parks and athletic facilities is something that we’ll be able to do, we would do or if we did if we have the ability to enforce it.”

The town recently denied a local band’s request to practice at a public facility, noting that 12 to 14 ft. of separation must be observed between musicians

using woodwind or brass instruments because of the “projectiles of the droplets.”

More optimistically, Sullivan believes that residents have taken precautions more seriously in recent months. Unfortunately, a number of residents refuse to follow protocols; on Sept. 1, one voter even refused to wear a mask in the high school.

“There’s advisory signs up about social distancing and wearing a mask and using good hygiene,” said Sullivan. “We keep on trying to spread that word and send it home, but there’s people speeding down streets that have speed limit signs of 25 and they’re doing 45, and those signs have been up forever. There’s a certain part of our population that’s not going to cooperate. They’re the ones who stand out like a sore thumb,” said Sullivan.

Residents who observe others breaking protocols are advised not to confront them, said Sullivan. That said, they can continue to lead by example in hopes that an increasing number of townsfolk will follow.

“The more that we get people to comply and cooperate, the more likely we’ll be to get those numbers down,” he said. “The bottom line is that the numbers have come down in South Hadley because of people’s cooperation. If people weren’t cooperating, I’m firmly convinced that our positivity rate would not have come down.”

Dalton Zbierski is a staff writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

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Have Something to Share?

Send your stories and photos to townreminder@turey.com

Opinion

GUEST COLUMN

Tomato preservation at its finest

I have been harvesting tomatoes as needed for the last three or four weeks. I'll run out to the garden when I want to make an omelet or add some to my dinner salad. Typically, I'll do a big harvest just once a week and go crazy preserving them in whatever way I feel inclined to. This past week I realized that once a week was not enough to keep up. This is a good problem to have, right? Here are some of my favorite methods of preserving an abundance of tomatoes.

IN THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid

For many years I froze tomatoes whole and it worked out great. If you've never tried it, simply hull the fruits, put them on a cookie sheet until they have frozen, then place them in freezer bags. During the offseason you can take out as many as you need for use in juice, stews or even salsas and sauces. Once the tomatoes thaw, the skin slips off fairly easily. It is easy to do this, for sure, but if your freezer space is premium, you may want to split the harvest by trying your hand at canning.

First, can the juice. Simply hull the fruit first, then whip it up in a high powered blender to liquefy it. Pour it into clean quart-sized jars, fitted with a new lid and a band. Place the jars into a pre-warmed water bath canner and process for 45 minutes of boiling time. Make sure that the water covers the jars by an inch or two. This winter you can either drink the juice or boil it down further for use in sauce.

We also can cut tomatoes. First, scald the tomatoes in boiling water until the skins crack a bit. Remove them from the water and allow to cool. Once they do, the skin slip off rather easily. Cut them to fill the canning jar, and then press down on the fruit in the jar with a wooden spoon to remove any air. Wipe the rim clean and then outfit the jar with a lid and band and set in the water bath for the same 45 minutes of boiling time. Once removed from the water the jars will cool and you will hear the pop of the seals; a symphony when you are doing many jars at a time.

Tomatoes can also be roasted. Place quartered tomatoes along with onions, peppers and garlic in the oven in a shallow roasting pan at 400 degrees, stirring every half hour, allowing the flavors to meld together. Once cooking is complete and most of moisture has evaporated, place the tasty mixture in plastic bags laid flat in the freezer. They can be easily stacked and stored, then used as a topping for pasta or pizza crust. Yum!

Many years ago I sun-dried tomatoes in the hot greenhouse at Old Sturbridge Village. I had plastic racks left from a dehydrator that never worked quite right. On these racks I placed cut up cherry tomatoes and let them "bake" on the shelves for two or three days in the heat. I stored these little bursts of flavor in a bag in the freezer so they wouldn't mold, simply taking out what I needed for pizza toppings etc.

Maybe this column will be the inspiration to help you tackle your own tomato harvest.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

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GUEST COLUMN

Keeping up with Kyle Belanger

The seemingly-endless summer break has nearly ended for our SHPS community—taking with it a list of challenges that could stretch from the Falls to The Village Commons (and back again).

Here's hoping the summer of 2020 will be the last of its kind.

Make no mistakes: This hard-charging new school year is fully unprecedented. But, in many ways, this is precisely the moment for which we have been preparing.

Over the last 2½ years, your school committee has set out on the purposeful path of rebuilding relationships and forging ahead with partnerships to build out its supports. After all, a school system (and committee) that operates on an island can't possibly expect to thrive in the greater community.

These networks are beneficial in "normal times," and critical during times of crisis.

We started slowly, getting all members of the committee on the town's email server to ensure transparency. We committed to putting public comment back onto the regular agenda to create the welcoming environment our town deserves. We reconnected with area colleagues, like the Collaborative for Educational Services, where committee members could collaborate with other districts in the Valley.

These initial steps seemed drastic, at first—unfathomable to some, unnecessary to others—but those of us on the committee recognized the value of the culture shift. We knew that these several small moves would lead to greater strides later.

When the dust settled on those initial steps, we turned internally—all important self-work looks inward, right? —and extended invitations to our student representative and teacher's union president for regular reports on our agenda. These voices, long excluded from the committee's regular meetings, needed to be back on the town's radar so we could be sure our schools were reflecting the true spirit of our South Hadley.

At present, those voices are Maddie Foley (student rep) and Scott Beaulieu (SHEA president). Their contributions are vital to our growth as a district.

And, while none of these changes may seem related to our current historical moment, I beg you to peel back a few layers.

There, you will see the results of the real work we've done.

We are on the doorstep of an unprecedented school year—a school year that might make you equal parts uncomfortable, relieved and frustrated (all emotions that I'll admit to experiencing in the last 24 hours). The end result of these culture shifts is you can ensure that none of the decisions we have ahead will be made without first hearing from all of those at the table, including

you.

We are not an island. We are one South Hadley.

August was a month that saw your School Committee meet for nearly 16 hours over three meetings.

Thanks to the unparalleled coverage of our meetings by the awesome Town Reminder staff, I don't need to waste your time in this space giving a blow-by-blow of our decisions. On occasion, though, I hope you'll allow me to offer a thought or two regarding those conversations and votes.

During our third meeting of the month, on the night of Aug. 31, we passed a pair of unanimous motions, preserving a modified fall sports schedule, and another reinstating the high school performing arts extra-curricular activities in remote form.

But we also learned of an incredible initiative which will provide a set number of weekly meals for any student in our district during remote learning. To be clear, this is a program for every single student in the South Hadley Public Schools. The initiative stipulates that "meals will be charged to student accounts based on free, reduced, or paid eligibility status."

To access information about the program, or to sign up to receive these meals, simply go to SouthHadleySchools.org, and select the Department tab across the top. Then, go to Food Services, and, finally, select "SHPS Meal Order Form" from the left rail. If you are unable to access these links for any reason, feel free to call Matt Hoagland or Cindy Roy at 413-524-1995.

Of course, you can (and perhaps should) treat yourself to watching the meetings in full. While I'll be happy to hit on some of the key meeting moments in this monthly dispatch, you can stay up to date on every decision or consideration by bookmarking SHCTV15.com, where station manager Dan Pease busts his tail to ensure that our community is fully plugged every minute of every day.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, Sept. 14, at 6 p.m. As always, you can catch it live on SHCTV 15 and SHCTV15.com.

And one final item for the month: As a communications professor who started my career as a newspaper sports columnist, I want to express the thrill I feel being back in the saddle. As a reader, I always enjoy reading columns for their unique personal flare, and the added texture they can lend to a publication.

I'm hoping I might occasionally fit that bill for you. I'm also aware that I am a guest in these

Please see **BELANGER**, page 7

A QUOTE

of NOTE

“There's been a collaboration with the family; the family came in and helped us brew 'Amor Angela.' They were part of the process. We decided to make a sour beer with passion fruit; orange and guava, which are flavors that the family thought she would be all about.”

Bruno Coelho
in the story "Amor Angela"
South Hadley brewery honors fallen Chicopee officer.

OPINION PAGE/
LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

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We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed. Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

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TOWN
Reminder

The Town Reminder is published every Friday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.

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► Granby ◀

Celebrate Talk Like a Pirate Day with Granby Library’s outdoor storywalk



“Talk like a pirate day” is coming to Granby Public Library in September.

GRANBY – To those that are out and about on Sept. 19 – don’t be surprised if people are saying, “ahoy matie,” “avast,” “aye, aye capt’n,” “land ho” and many other pirate-like phrases, because it’s International Talk Like a Pirate Day.

Stop by the Granby Library anytime to read the story “How to talk like a pirate.” Take home crafts will be available near the library entrance only during open library hours from Sept. 8 to 22, while supplies last. Library hours are Tuesday to Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

It’s suggested that families read the story via the storywalk first, then take one craft bag per child present. The take

home craft bag is a pirate puppet, inside your bag kids also get a “Learn to Talk Like a Pirate Sheet.”

A storywalk is an outdoor reading experience whereby a children’s book is deconstructed and the pages of the book are laminated and placed on posts along a walk way.

Storywalk was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vermont, and has developed with the help of Rachel Senechal, Kellogg-Hubbard Library.

The Granby Library is doing curbside pick-up (details at granbylibrary.com) call the library at 413-467-3320 for more information and for some pirate theme storybooks.

Courtesy photo

Construction starting in Granby

GRANBY – Road reconstruction projects will begin week of Sept. 8.

The work will be performed on Kendall Street, Ridge Path and Griswold Circle.

Through traffic may be detoured at times or reduced to a single lane. Seek alternate routes if possible.

The roads will remain open to residents on the streets but short-term inconvenience/delays due to construction operations are possible.

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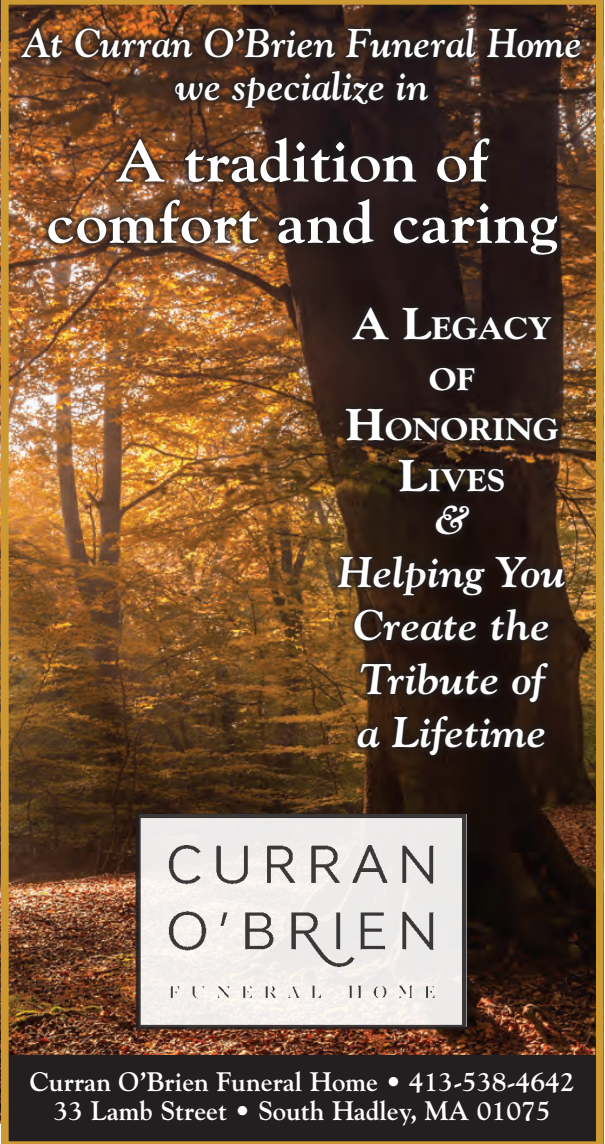
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Faces & Places ◀

USPS Supporters



Courtesy photo by Lucia Foley

Local citizens gathered at 11 a.m. on Saturday morning, Aug. 22, to express support for the postal service. People wearing masks stood six feet apart to line the sidewalks around the South Hadley Post Office on both sides of College and Hadley Streets.

BELANGER from page 6

pages, hosted by a remarkable staff of journalists and editors who have extended this grace to me. To that end, I want to offer my sincere gratitude to the *Town Reminder* staff, including, and especially, Editor Melina Bourdeau.

Community journalism is alive and well, and I am thankful to be working by your side.

Kyle Belanger is the South Hadley School Committee chair, proud parent of two South Hadley students, and Assistant Professor of Communications at Springfield College. He can be reached at kbelanger@shschools.com. This is his first monthly column on the South Hadley School Committee.

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In the Classroom

Prepare girls for kindergarten with Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts’ virtual events series

HOLYOKE—Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts and Girl Scouts of the USA are launching a free “Make New Friends” virtual event series to ensure that all girls are prepared to start kindergarten with confidence.

The COVID-19 pandemic and transition to virtual learning and activities has disrupted important educational milestones, particularly for children entering kindergarten this year. Social and emotional learning is important for success in kindergarten, and as the experts on girls’ leadership and development, Girl Scouts is uniquely poised to lead fun and impactful events that help girls make new friends while boosting their social skills, self-confidence and experience in a classroom or virtual setting.

One of the largest girl-serving organizations offering social and emotional kindergarten readiness pro-

gramming, Girl Scouts has designed a specialized, engaging four-part virtual event series that is free and open to all girls who are entering kindergarten. Girls will:

- Practice interacting with other girls, exploring new ideas and gaining the courage to ask questions about what they see;
- Explore emotions and learn how being persistent can help them achieve their dreams;
- Use their senses to process the world around them while practicing reasoning and problem-solving skills; and
- Learn how to listen to a story, identify key characters, follow a plotline and then share what they learned.

The dates are as follows:

Tuesdays, Sept. 8, 15, 22, 29; from 6 to 6:30 p.m.

Thursdays, Sept. 10, 17, 24, and Oct. 1; from 6 to 6:30 p.m.

Mondays, Sept. 14, 21, 28 and Oct. 5; from 6 to 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 16, 23, 30, and Oct. 7; from 6 to 6:30 p.m.

Many in-person kindergarten readiness and pre-K programs have been cancelled or modified due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including opportunities to meet teachers and classmates and to try out a classroom activity. Knowing that social and emotional learning and development are some of the strongest predictors of academic success and healthy relationships, Girl Scouts has designed fun activities for girls to meet these critical milestones. Events will include activities for girls to explore the solar system, create an inspiring drawing to represent their dreams and remind them to be persistent, and much more.

Enter your zip code to sign up for GSCWM’S Make New Friends event series at www.girlscouts.org/ready.

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Living through history

Local elementary students share their thoughts on COVID-19

SOUTH HADLEY – Much like the rest of the world, children have gone through the pandemic and are experiencing history being made from their homes.

Third graders from Mosier Elementary School were tasked with a writing assignment about their thoughts and feelings surrounding COVID-19, according to teacher Allyson Saul.

This poem could be in any form the students wished and submissions included haiku, acrostic, shape, free verse and rhyming poems. The assignment was created by Leah McCarthy.

By Chris Grennon

I hate it because it
makes kids stay inside
always

By Boston Knapp

Can you see coronavirus
Outside were a mask
Right now stay inside
Oceans are closed
A time to spend flamy.

By Sophia Lafleur

Corona is bad!
Outside you have to wear a mask.
Really annoying
On and on forever
Never stops
Also I really dislike corona

COVID-19 Poem

By Zoe LaPlante

Sort of boring, I’m mostly snoring!
It’s kind of fun, I’m lovin’ the sun,
Shining through the window.
I clean toilets, I learn to do chores,
Though there are lots of snores.

By Nina Levreault

Sitting at a computer all day
Annoying little sister
Dreadful

By Regan Masse

Bored in the house
And I’m in the house bored
Bored in the house
And I’m in the house bored
I got nothing to do
And the house is bored
My brain is exploding like mac and cheese
I am bored and my mom makes me clean
Bored in the house
And I’m in the house in bored
What if it never ends?
It won’t become history. We will still be stuck
creating history.
I am bored!
Drop the mic!

Quarantine

By Stella Martinez

A quarantine is like a wall blocking you away
from your friends and family.
It can be extended, pushing the wall even farther...farther...and farther until it’s a Shelter in Place or Lockdown.
Then comes online school, an urge to wear a mask, and take out an delivery only.
So much will change during this pandemic, but one thing that won’t is your connection to family and friends.
We can FaceTime, Zoom, Google Meet, text and email!
Please stay home for the front-line workers, who are putting their lives on the line for us.
It’s very frustrating for a health care worker to do their job at this time, and I know this because my Dad is a surgeon at the Holyoke Medical Center.
People are getting unemployed, and some are just stressed!
But if everyone works together to stop the virus from spreading, maybe the world can slowly turn back to normal, re-opening the economy and shops, and having parties.
And please remember, stay safe and stay home.

SHELD from page 1

and the Groton Electric Light Dept., who supplied mutual aid. His greatest words of appreciation were directed towards his colleagues.

“I’d like to thank most of all the SHELD staff most of whom never went home Tuesday,” said Fitzgerald, noting that parts of the region were without power for five days. “They worked all through the night. Some of them postponed or cut short planned vacation time.”

Commission member Gregory Dubreuil was also left impressed. Referencing the response to past numerous storms such as the 2011 Halloween nor’easter, Dubreuil offered high praise.

“This is one of the great things about having a municipal electric department,” he said. “There were a significant number of folks who went significantly longer than what people experienced in town here. To have people who live locally out there in their own community getting things back up and running as quickly as they do is just one of the many benefits of having a local municipal electric plant.”

Fitzgerald not only thanked the members of his team; he thanked their loved



Photo by Dalton Zbierski

SHELD discussed its response to Tropical Storm Isaias in its meeting last week.

ones as well.

“I’d also like to thank their family members who support them during these demanding storms,” he said. “I mean I’m sure it’s not easy thinking about your loved ones out there in hazardous conditions so the SHELD dedi-

cation, communication, teamwork and restoration was extraordinary. I was out there watching it and supporting the staff.”

Fibersonic update

Fibersonic, a project spearheaded by SHELD that aims to connect South

Hadley residents with Fiber to the home, is also developing. As of the Aug. 27 meeting, SHELD had delivered a construction update to all 2,554 customers who have expressed interest.

“The Aug. 24 update included the message that we have nine fiber hoods that we have completed and four fiber hoods under construction. In addition, a notification of Fibersonic’s new telephone service was included. That’s kind of a big deal. The new service has robust features and costs \$19.99 a month plus tax and fees, which are additional by law,” said Fitzgerald.

SHELD also awarded a contract to a local business to complete construction upgrades at SHELD’s future central office at 128 College St. Marois Construction Co. on Old Lyman Rd. submitted the lowest bid.

“They’re a local company so they’re based here in South Hadley,” said Fitzgerald. “That’s a pretty great development, but we went through a whole formal bid process and that will begin hopefully very soon. Hopefully, we’ll have the construction underway in the next couple of months.”

PRIMARY from page 1

sor received 1,241 votes, for renomination, he ran uncontested on the ballot.

For the Precinct 1, Representative of the Third Hampshire District, candidate Mindy Domb received 680 votes. In Precinct 2, Representative of the Second Hampshire District, candidate for renomination Daniel Carey, received 522 votes.

Michael Carey secured renomination for Hampshire county register of probate with 1,184 votes.

On the Republican ballot, Shiva Ayyadurai received 180 votes to Kevin O’Connor’s 181 votes.

There were no other names on the ballot.

O’Connor won at the state level and will face off against Markey in the November election.



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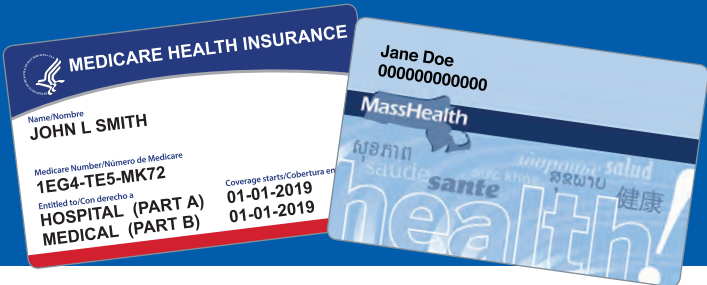
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Fall sports set to begin on Sept. 18

Some schools still need to decide whether to participate

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – Fall sports are set to begin and soccer will be a part of the fall lineup as a modified season will be the first up with a number of modifications.

What schools will participate in the fall season is still up in the air following an announcement by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association last week stating schools could begin practicing on Sept. 18.

The COVID-19 Task Force

made several recommendations that were adopted by the MIAA Board of Directors.

As of now, the fall season will run from Sept. 18 through Nov. 20. Soccer, gymnastics, cross country, field hockey, girls volleyball, and golf will all be able to practice and play games.

During the fall season, football and cheerleading can practice, but they cannot play or participation in contests.

As of the current vote, the winter season is scheduled to take place from Nov. 30 to Feb. 21. The winter season is currently scheduled to have basketball, even though it is a high-risk sport.

The floating season, also being labeled as “Fall Sports II” will take place from Feb. 22 to April

25. Unified basketball, football, and cheerleading will be played. Schools that were not able to participate in certain fall sports during the first fall season will also be able to play during that time.

The schools that could potentially participate in sports like soccer and field hockey during the floating season depend on which schools vote to keep students off the field during the first fall season.

Schools that are doing full remote learning and hybrid model learning where students are going to school only part of the time will have to vote on whether students can play. It is not clear yet which schools are or not participate in Western Mass. sports this

fall, and schedules for games have yet to be established.

A 22-0 vote of the MIAA Board of Directors approved the current version of the sports calendar.

The Board of Directors also unanimously voted to attempt to create fall schedules that are league specific and keep travel to a minimum by scheduled games within close geographic regions. In Western Massachusetts, the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference, the group that governs the leagues in the region, will be challenged with coming up with that schedule.

One major fallback of the fall season is the elimination of the tournament.

With the elimination of the

tournament, there will unlikely be a final-sponsored MIAA Western Massachusetts soccer tournament, a big tradition in the region.

The PVIAC is working on hosting its own tournament for the region before the new statewide tournaments begin in fall 2021, but the plans for that have been put on hold since the pandemic.

Another major caveat to the fall sports seasons is that if towns have spikes in coronavirus cases that lead to the community being labeled high-risk by the state, that school would have to cease play. This fall, teams that have to cease play can come back during the floating season, when hopefully, play would be unrestricted because a vaccine is available.

Preparing for a new fall



Photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Several teams got a taste of what the fall will look like as they participated in summer program held at South Hadley High School for seven weeks. Teams from several area communities, including South Hadley, Agawam, Holyoke, and Belchertown, participated in scrimmages that included 7-on-7 play, a rule that will be part of the fall season due to the pandemic and the need to limit contact. Teams also played without penalty corners and other modifications.

OT rules for field hockey top changes for sports

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – With the return of fall sports, the MIAA Board of Directors have chosen to adopt changes to sports recommended by it’s COVID-19 Task Force committee and the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA).

Field hockey will see a number of big changes with

the game somewhat resembling playoff overtimes and the elimination of a number of regular parts of the game.

Field hockey will have no penalty corners and players are expected to observe the field yard full on any and all free hits. It’s already a rule, but will likely be more strictly enforced.

Please see **OT RULES**, page 12

Bonsignore wins modified race at Monadnock



Submitted photo

Justin Bonsignore gets the victory this past week in the modified race.

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Justin Bonsignore has Monadnock Speedway pretty well figured out. Sunday, the Empire State star won the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Wade Cole Memorial 200 at the storied high-banked quarter-mile.

It was Bonsignore’s third Whelen Tour victory at Monadnock, duplicated big scores here in 2013 and 2014, the latter the famed all-green 200-lapper. When Bonsignore won that one, in fact, Sunday’s main event namesake, Wade Cole, was in

the field, as was open-wheel legend Ted Christopher.

With rain blanketing the region Saturday, the speedway’s 11th event of the season was pushed ahead to Sunday, and second-generation star Matt Kimball (Bennington, NH) found the afternoon racing conditions just to his liking, scoring his first NHSTRA Modified victory of the season.

Other winners Sunday included Jaret Curtis (Rutland,

Please see **RACING**, page 12

Census Takers to follow up on nonresponses

Health, safety and quality of work is vital to the Census Bureau

REGION — The United States Census Bureau is actively conducting non-response follow up operations across every city, town and municipality in the state to ensure a complete and accurate count of everyone living in the United States.

By law, the Census Bureau must provide the first results from the 2020 Census by Dec. 31. To provide complete and accurate results by that deadline, the bureau is working to collect a response from every household by Sept. 30. Every household is urged to respond, maximizing staff and production hours, and ensuring data quality along the way.

Following health and safety guidelines

To ensure safety of all employees and residents, census takers are wearing masks and following social distancing guidelines. In most cases, census workers will make up to six attempts at each ad-

dress to count possible residents—this is the same number of attempts the bureau have been planning all along.

Census takers will still visit homes during the originally planned hours—between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m., local time, including on weekends, to reach people when they are more likely at home. Census takers are also calling some households to help them respond to the census, providing one more way to count hard-to-reach communities and people who have not yet responded.

Households are urged to respond through the multilingual advertising campaign and through the efforts of nearly 400,000 partner organizations.

Additional paper census questionnaires are being mailed to many households that have not responded yet in low-responding areas.

Identifying Census Workers

The Census Bureau is attempting to complete data collection as quickly and safely as possible, while ensuring a complete and accurate count as it strives to comply with law and statutory deadlines. Identifying a Census Bureau employee

can be accomplished by checking their ID badge, which includes:

- Their name
- Their photograph
- A Department of Commerce Watermark
- An expiration date

Employees will also have an official 2020 Census bag and Census Bureau issued iPhone. If you are still unsure, you can ask the census taker for their supervisor’s contact information or the phone number for the local Census Bureau regional census center. Also, census takers should NEVER ask for any of the following information:

- Your Social Security number
- Your bank account or credit card numbers
- Anything on behalf of a political party
- Money or donations

The United States Census Bureau has created a group of experienced field experts to closely monitor, evaluate, and resolve quality issues. Because census takers are using mobile devices instead of paper, we have a great deal of data about how long the census takers spend

interviewing each respondent and where they physically were when the interview was conducted. This information is being monitored and used to identify outliers. Based on those outliers, the census bureau may re-interview a portion of the census takers’ work to verify quality standards are met. The best way to avoid a visit from a census taker at home is to complete the 2020 Census online at www.2020census.gov.

About the 2020 Census

The U.S. Constitution mandates a head count, every ten years, of all residents living in the United States and its territories. Census counts determine how many seats each state is allocated in the U.S. House of Representative as well as how over \$675 billion in federal dollars in distributed annually. Individual responses are protected by federal law, never to be shared with any other department, court, or law enforcement agency. Responding to the 2020 Census is easy with four ways to respond: online, by phone, by paper, or with the help of a census taker.

State announces policies to expand childcare options

BOSTON - The Baker-Polito Administration today announced new policies that will provide families who require childcare while their children are engaged in remote learning additional options by allowing programs to offer supervised care during regular school day hours.

Governor Charlie Baker signed an Executive Order that allows the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) to authorize currently licensed after-school and out-of-school programs to operate during the school day while children are learning remotely.

As schools prepare to reopen, working parents need to find care and learning support for their school-aged children while they are engaged in remote learning. Current state statute prohibits licensed after-school and out-of-school time programs for school-aged children from offering care during school hours.

The Executive Order allows EEC to authorize childcare programs, like YMCAs, Boys and Girls Clubs, family childcare homes and others, to care for

school-age children while they participate in remote learning.

The department will also exempt informal remote learning parent cooperative arrangements organized by families, if unpaid parents supervise the groups. These parent cooperatives are still subject to any state orders regulating gatherings in place under the COVID-19 state of emergency.

In addition, the Executive Order creates a temporary license exemption for remote learning enrichment programs to provide supervision and care for school children up to age 14 while they participate in remote learning during the school day. These remote learning programs, which must meet specific criteria, will need to first be approved by their local municipality before they can apply for the license exemption. Programs run by a school district are already exempt from EEC licensure and do not need to apply for this exemption.

The Departments of Early Education and Care and Elementary and Secondary Education will issue joint

guidance that details the minimum requirements for remote learning programs, including background record checks, health and safety standards, facilities checks and child to staff ratios.

Municipalities will ensure programs, that are approved for the license exemption, comply with health and safety requirements.

“We all want our children to get back into school as soon as possible and we applaud the schools and districts that are making the extra effort to bring their students back in some form,” said Education Secretary James Peyser. “At the same time, we know that remote learning will be part of the educational experience for many students this fall, so it’s critical that we enable parents, after-school providers, and community organizations to offer additional childcare options and learning supports when students are unable to attend school in person.”

For more information and EEC guidance go to https://eeclead.force.com/apex/EEC_ChildCareEmergency-HybridLearning.

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► Health & Wellness

Warm humid weather ramps up mosquito population and EEE threat

PALMER – As of Aug. 15, the second confirmed human case of Eastern Equine Encephalitis of the season has been detected in Massachusetts. A woman in her 60s from Hampden County in the western part of the state tested positive on Saturday, according to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH).

As a result, the risk level for EEE in Wilbraham has been raised to critical and the risk level in Hampden and Monson has been raised to high. Other communities in the region have been raised to a moderate risk for the mosquito-borne illness, officials said.

Mosquito season is usually associated with the hotter summer months, but it actually begins much earlier and extends well into autumn.

If you’ve been outside recently you may have noticed that mosquitoes are out in full force.

Some mosquitoes carry germs that can make people and some animals sick. While some mosquito bites will only itch, others can carry potentially dangerous illnesses. In Massachusetts, the diseases linked to mosquitoes are West Nile virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) virus.

As the threat of EEE rises in Massachusetts, the community needs to take precautions when outdoors.

“The best way to prevent illnesses from mosquito bites is to protect yourself and your family from bites,” said Dr. Robert Spence, chief of Emergency Medicine for Baystate Wing Hospital and Baystate Mary Lane Outpatient Center.

It is possible that some people who

become infected with mosquito borne viruses may not develop any symptoms or in some cases only flu-like symptoms. The incubation period for the virus from the time of an infected mosquito bite to onset of illness ranges from four to 10 days and the illness can last one to two weeks,” said Dr. Spence. “There is no specific treatment for EEE. Antibiotics are not effective against viruses, and no effective anti-viral drugs have been discovered for the treatment of EEE. Severe illnesses are treated by supportive therapy, which may include hospitalization, respiratory support, IV fluids and prevention of other infections.”

According to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, there are over 3,000 different kinds, also called “species,” of mosquitoes identified worldwide, with more than 150 different kinds of mosquitoes found in North America. Fifty-one different kinds of mosquitoes have been found in Massachusetts. Mosquitoes are attracted to carbon dioxide, a gas that humans and other animals breathe out and can follow a stream of carbon dioxide from as far as 50 feet away.

Mosquitoes need stagnant water in order to lay their eggs and what most people don’t realize is the surprising number of areas around their own house where mosquitoes can find the stagnant water they need. All a female mosquito needs is a bottle cap of water to lay 100 to 200 eggs, once the eggs are laid, they hatch into larvae within 24 to 48 hours, so any temporary body of water that is present for more than a week can be a mosquito breeding habitat.

EEE is relatively rare in humans, although there are occasional outbreaks in certain regions of the country. Fewer than 100 people have died from EEE in Massachusetts in the past 75 years, according to the Department of Public Health. In the United States, approximately five to 10 EEE cases are reported annually. The risk of getting EEE is highest from late July through September when more mosquitoes are present and active.

West Nile virus (WNV) is a mosquito-carried virus most commonly spread to people through the bite of an infected mosquito.

“The majority of people who are infected with WNV, some 80% will have no symptoms. A smaller number of people who become infected, less than 20% will have symptoms such as fever, headache, body aches, nausea, vomiting, and sometimes swollen lymph glands. Less than 1% of people infected with WNV will develop severe illness, including encephalitis or meningitis. There is no specific treatment for WNV infections. People with mild WNV infections usually recover on their own. People with severe WNV infections almost always require hospitalization,” said Dr. Spence. He encourages community members to follow The Department of Public Health tips that will help people protect themselves and their loved ones from illnesses caused by mosquitoes:

Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours: The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities

that occur during evening or early morning.

Apply Insect Repellent when Outdoors: Use a repellent with DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] or IR3535 according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30% or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age.

Clothing Can Help Reduce Mosquito Bites: Wearing long-sleeves, long pants and sock when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

Mosquito-Proof Your Home and Drain Standing Water: Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. They can begin to multiply in any puddle or standing water that lasts for more than four days. If you have a bird bath in your yard, be sure to empty it daily and refill with fresh water. Remove containers that may hold water in places that are hard to see such as under bushes, porches, decks, or stairs.

Install or Repair Screens. Keep mosquitoes outside by having tightly fitting screens on all of your windows and doors.

More information about different types of mosquitoes that can spread the virus can be found on the MDPH website at mass.gov/dph/wnv. For more information about emergency care visit Baystate Wing Hospital or Baystate Mary Lane Outpatient Center.

OT RULES from page 10

But the biggest change is that all regular play will be 7-on-7. Those rules usually apply to overtime, and overtime in field hockey is only played during the playoffs. All other games end in ties.

Other modifications to limit contact are the elimination of stick inspections during the pre-game as coaches will be responsible for making sure that all sticks are legal for use in games. Officials would normally do a stick inspection prior to all games.

Soccer is the other sport that will see some significant changes due to the amount of contact that can take place between players.

To begin, the games will be separated into four separate 20-minute quarters. There will be two minutes in between quarters with the exception of halftime, which will be a 10-minute rest period like normal. But timeouts will be eliminated.

Coaches will be limited to just three per bench.

Players will not be allowed to head the ball, and the use of “walls” on a restart in play will not be allowed due to attempts to socially distance.

Throw-ins will also be eliminated

and a kick-in will be utilized instead. Opposing players must be at least 10 yards away from the ball.

Goal kicks and punts or throws back into play from goalkeepers will also be modified. The ball is not allowed to travel past midfield or the other team receives an indirect kick.

Another major modification is made to penalty kicks. During regulation, if a team receives a kick, the ball is dead if it goes off the goalkeeper. No rebound shots will be allowed. A goalie who saves or deflects the ball will receive a goal kick.

Slide tackles and other major contact are also prohibited and could result in direct kicks or yellow cards.

In volleyball, teams will have to eliminate a lot of the contact they are used to. Teams typically huddle quickly before and after plays, and shake hands or high-five before and after the match. All of those traditions will be eliminated for the season.

There will also be a regular cycling of balls to keep balls clean.

Cross country will see waves of runners rather all of the runners lined up to start the game.

All sports will have to observe a lot of social distancing rules, non-shared equipment, and making sure all types of contact are limited.

RACING from page 10

Ma), Street Stocks; Gordon Farnum (Fitzwilliam, NH), Mini Stocks; and Farnum’s stablemate, Chris Davis (Winchester, NH), Pure Stocks.

Jon McKennedy set fast time in the Whelen Mods, posting a lap time of 12.781 seconds to sit on the pole as the 28-car field began the big dance. Bonsignore took the green beside him.

McKennedy led the first 60 laps of the main event, with Ron Silk draped all over him, and Bonsignore cruising close behind in third. Silk then took control of the Cole Memorial, with Bonsignore moving up to the deuce slot 17 circuits later.

Bonsignore ran in Silk’s shadow until rocketing through the low groove to take the lead on 176, taking the checkers by a six-length margin 24 laps later. Doug Coby, strong all day in the seven-caution event, came home third, with Anthony Nocella and Ronnie Williams completing the top five. McKennedy finished ninth.

Sunday’s victory was Bonsignore’s third in five completed Whelen Tour events this season.

Cameron Houle and Solomon Brow led the NHSTRA Mods to the green, with Houle grabbing the early lead. Rookie Cory Plummer then took charge and kept the field at bay until Matt Kimball, from row four, blasted into the top spot on lap 16.

The Bennington, N.H. hot shoe was still up front when this one was shortened with a yellow/checkers ending after numerous cautions had slowed its march to conclusion. Todd Patnode, who’d quietly cruised into second on lap 29, was second, with division points leader Brian Robie moving closer to the championship in third.

Sunday’s Street Stock 25-lapper was a battle of the Rutland, Mass. Curtis twins. Jaret and Chase. Jaret took the lead from Tim Wenzel on lap two and never looked back en route to his second win of the summer. Chase, the points leader, got up for second on lap eight and chased his sibling the rest of the way.

Mini Stock points leader Gordon Farnum flew past Nathan Wenzel on lap 19 of their Sunday feature and then sped away to his fifth victory lap of the summer. Wenzel was strong in second, with Jeff Asselin third.

In the Pures, 2019 track champ Chris Davis started up front and easily scored his third win of the season, unfortunately equaling the number of engines he’s lost in 2020. Jimmy Zellman came from row four to earn his best finish of the summer in second, and Nick Houle came home third. Top points man Mike Douglas finished fourth to stay comfortably atop the championship chase.

The Pro Truck Series made its second visit of the summer to the high banks Sunday, with Gerard Giordano Jr. topping a spirited 55-lapper. Giordano grabbed the top spot from Dave Koenig on lap 37 and held him at bay the rest of the way. Connor Souza was third. Saturday, September 5, Monadnock Speedway returns to action with the multi-track NHSTRA Modifieds taking center stage with a Battle for The Cup event. For more information, please visit www.monadnockspeedway.com.

NASCAR WHELEN MODIFIEDS (Top 10): Justin Bonsignore, Ron Silk, Doug Coby, Anthony Nocella, Ronnie Williams, Matt Hirschman, Woody Pitkat, Sammy Rameau, Jon McKennedy, Craig Lutz.

NHSTRA Modified: Matt Kimball, Todd Patnode, Brian Robie, Solomon Brow, Ben Byrne, Joel Monahan, Trevor Bleau, Kim Rivet, Zach Leone, Cory Plummer, Cameron Houle, Jason Houle, Brad Zahensky, Kevin Pittsinger, Scott MacMichael, Brian Chapin, Rob Richardi, Eric Leclair, Scott Bourne

Mini Stocks: Gordon Farnum, Nathan Wenzel, Jeff Asselin, Kevin Cormier, Pat Houle, Tim Leblanc, Joshua Hubbard, Bill Chaffee, Jake Puchalski, Joshua Wright, Bobby Kirker, Aaron Thompson, Ethan Marsh, Raymond King, Kevin Russell, Kevin Clayton, Adam Sprague

Street Stocks: Jaret Curtis, Chase Curtis, Chris Buffone, Hillary Renaud, Kenny Thompson, Paul Barnard, Bryan Granger, Tim Wenzel, Ed Brehio

Pure Stocks: Chris Davis, Jimmy Zellman, Nick Houle, Mike Douglas, Brandon Lavoie, CJ Johnson, Matt Lambert, Cory Lofland, JD Stockwell, Jason Leray, Tucker Houle, Zack Richardson, Joshua Slyz

BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

For more information on business coverage for the Town Reminder, please email townreminder@turley.com.

MEMA offers hurricane season preparedness tips

REGION – MEMA is working closely with the Department of Public Health and the newly established Pandemic Disaster Mass Care Working Group to develop guidance for evacuations and mass care during COVID-19. This guidance will be provided to municipalities to inform their planning and preparedness for hurricane season and will be used to adjust the Commonwealth’s mass care and evacuation plans to help keep individuals both safe and healthy during a disaster.

Working in partnership with the Emergency Support Function Team and with local partners some of the steps MEMA is taking to prepare for the 2020 hurricane season during COVID-19 include re-evaluating capacities of state-initiated regional shelter sites; preparing for the need for additional evacuation transportation vehicles; adding screening, sanitization, disinfection, and general public health protocols to existing mass care plans; and planning for and preparing to

provide sheltering in non-congregate settings such as hotels.

Massachusetts has defined hurricane evacuation zones, designated as Zone A, Zone B and Zone C, for areas of the state at risk for storm surge flooding associated with tropical storms or hurricanes. If evacuations are necessary because of a tropical storm or hurricane, local or state officials will notify people living, working, or vacationing in evacuation zones to leave the area for their safety. Even areas not directly along a coastline may be at risk for storm surge flooding during a tropical storm or hurricane. Find out if you live, work, or vacation in a hurricane evacuation zone by visiting the ‘Know Your Zone’ interactive map located on MEMA’s website at www.mass.gov/knowyourzone.

Residents should develop a plan with the members of their household to prepare for what to do, how to find each other, and how to communicate in a tropical

storm or hurricane. An emergency plan should include: meeting locations, emergency contact information, evacuation plans, shelter-in-place plans and considerations for family members with access and functional needs, and pets.

For more information, people should see: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/make-a-family-emergency-plan>.

Build an emergency kit containing items that will sustain you and your family in the event you are isolated for three to five days without power or unable to go to a store. Emergency kits are particularly important during hurricane season, due to potential extended power outages, flooding, and impassable debris-covered roads. While it is important to customize your kit to meet the unique needs of you and your family, every emergency kit should include bottled water, food, a flashlight, a radio and extra batteries, a first aid kit, sanitation items, and clothing. Depending on your family’s needs, emergency kits

should also include medications, extra eyeglasses, medical equipment and supplies, children’s items such as diapers and formula, food and supplies for pets and service animals, and other items you or your family members might need during a disaster. For a complete emergency kit checklist, visit: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/build-an-emergency-kit>.

Receiving advance warnings and timely emergency alerts and information from public officials is critical to staying safe during a tropical storm or hurricane. Every family should have multiple methods for receiving emergency alerts. Learn more about different types of alerting and information tools including the Emergency Alert System, Wireless Emergency Alerts, NOAA Weather Radio, Social Media and Traditional Media, 2-1-1 Hotline, Local Notification Systems: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/be-informed-and-receive-emergency-alerts>.

Public Notices ◀

TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The South Hadley Planning Board, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40-A, Section 11, Massachusetts General Laws as modified by Chapter 53 of the Special Acts of 2020 and the Governor’s Executive Orders pertaining public gatherings during the COVID 19 State of Emergency, will hold a virtual public hearing on **Monday, September 21, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.** to discuss the application of Tamara L. Kleeberg; 9 West Summit Street; South Hadley, MA 01075 for Site Plan Review under Article XII and Section 255-22 of the Town’s Zoning Bylaw. The public hearing will be conducted virtually/online using the Google Meet platform and persons may join the meeting by either joining Google Meet or by phone. Final login information will be provided on the posted agenda for the September 21, 2020 meeting (agenda to be posted on the Town’s website no later than Thursday September 17, 2020). Tentative login information as of August 24, 2020 is:

Join By Google Meet: meet.google.com/pxt-zoza-cna

Or By Phone: (US) +1 240-734-0140 PIN: 352 835 930#

The applicant is seeking Site Plan Review approval to allow operation of a Home Occupation II in a portion (approximately 144 square feet) of the building at 9 West Summit Street as an in home hair salon business. No exterior alterations are proposed. The subject property consists of a 0.52 parcel located along north side of West Summit Street and identified on

Assessor’s Map Number #20 as Parcel #10.

Plans and the application (and supporting documentation) are on file in the Planning & Conservation Department Office (Room U6) in Town Hall. The plans and application (and supporting documentation) entitled “West Summit Street (9) – Hair Stylist Home Occupation” are also posted on the Planning & Conservation Department’s “Project Plans M through Z” page on the Town’s website www.southhadley.ma.gov in a section titled “Various Projects M through Z”. Any person interested in, or wishing to be heard regarding, this application should appear/join the hearing at the time and in the manner designated.

Joanna Brown, Clerk
South Hadley Planning Board
8/28, 9/04/2020

TOWN OF GRANBY Board of Appeals

The Granby Board of Appeals along with Granby Planning Board will hold a joint Public hearing on **Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 6:30 P.M.** at *1 Library Lane, Old Carnegie Library, top floor,

6:30 PM- to consider the petition of Lee & Nancy Lalonde Applicant/Owner seeking a variance of Section III- Regulations, 3, Table 2. - Dimensional and Density Regulation, regarding insufficient minimum side setbacks regarding a proposed construction of a garage to be located at 42 Taylor Street, known as Map 8C-A-14 in the Town of Granby, MA .

In addition to the above hearing, the Board of Appeals intends to conduct a public meeting following said hearings as time permits. This notice is given pursuant to Chapter 40A and Chapter 39, Section

23B of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Kathleen Bronner,
Pro-Tem Chair
Granby Board of Appeals

*This meeting may have to be held in a remote session. Please go to <https://www.granby-ma.gov/zoning-board-appeals/agenda/> zoning-board-appeals-4 48 hours before the meeting to check on the status of the meeting in case you need a phone # and password to join this hearing/meeting.
8/28, 9/04/2020

TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REVISED NOTICE

The South Hadley Planning Board, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Section 11; Massachusetts General Laws as modified by Chapter 53 of the Special Acts of 2020; Chapter 40R, Massachusetts General Laws; Section 255-23 of the South Hadley Zoning Bylaw; the South Hadley Planning Board Administrative Regulations Regarding Applications and Plan Review under Smart Growth 40R Districts; Chapter 200 of the Town of South Hadley General Bylaws; and the Governor’s Executive Orders pertaining public gatherings during the COVID 19 State of Emergency, will hold a **virtual** public hearing on **Monday, September 21, 2020 at 7:15 p.m.** to discuss the application of South Hadley Plaza, LLC; 40 Island Pond Road; Springfield, MA 01118 for Plan Approval under Section 255-23 of the Town’s Zoning Bylaw and the Planning Board’s Administrative Regulations Regarding Applications and Plan Review under Smart Growth 40R Districts and

approval of a Stormwater Management Permit under Chapter 200 of the Town of South Hadley By-Laws for development of a 60-unit apartment building. The public hearing will be conducted virtually/online using the Google Meet platform and persons may join the meeting by either joining Google Meet or by phone. Final login information will be provided on the posted agenda for the September 21, 2020 meeting (agenda to be posted on the Town’s website no later than Thursday September 17, 2020). Tentative login information as of August 26, 2020 is:

Join By Google Meet: meet.google.com/pxt-zoza-cna

Or By Phone: (US) +1 240-734-0140 PIN: 352 835 930#

The applicant is seeking Plan Approval and a Stormwater Management Permit to allow construction and operation of a 60-unit apartment building. Other elements of the project include provision of green space, parking, landscaping, Stormwater management facilities, and related improvements. The subject property is generally identified as 501 Newton Street and is located at the intersection of Newton and Lyman Streets and is generally identified as a 3 acre portion of the 9.2-acre Parcel #200 and **10,386 square feet of Parcel #194 on Assessor’s Map #28 except as Parcel #200 is altered by Land Swap Agreement dated August 31, 2020.** The subject property lies within the Newton Street Smart Growth District.

Plans and the application (and supporting documentation) are on file in the Planning & Conservation Department Office (Room U6) in Town Hall. The plans and application (and

supporting documentation) are also posted on the Planning & Conservation Department’s “Project Plans” Page of the Town’s website www.southhadley.ma.gov in a Section titled “Newton Street (501) – Woodlawn Plaza Housing Development”. Any person interested in, or wishing to be heard regarding, this application should appear/join the hearing at the time and in the manner designated.

Joanna Brown, Clerk
South Hadley Planning Board
9/04, 9/11/2020

TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY MASSACHUSETTS CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The South Hadley Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act MGL Chapter 131, Section 40 and the South Hadley local Wetlands Bylaw, to consider a Notice of Intent filed by NSTAR Electric DBA Eversource for replacement of three (3) structures and ancillary work associated with five (5) structures located within resource

areas at Line 1113 Right-of-Way, which traverses an area northeast to southwest from East Street (Granby) to New Ludlow Road (Chicopee) in the Town of South Hadley.

The hearing will be held virtually on Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 6:00 pm. Due to the State of Emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting is being conducted virtually (online), and login information will be provided with the posted agenda.

A copy of the Notice of Intent is on file in the Conservation Commission office, Room U6, in the Town Hall, and is available to the public for inspection by appointment between the hours of 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Monday thru Friday. To schedule an appointment call (413) 538-5017 x6123. The application is also available for review on the Conservation Commission website here: <https://www.southhadley.org/603/Project-Plans>

Any person interested or wishing to be heard should appear at the time and place designated.

Bill DeLuca
Conservation Chair
9/04/2020

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Wistariahurst to launch fall live virtual program series

HOLYOKE – Wistariahurst, in coordination with the Holyoke Community Development Office and the Holyoke Council on Aging will launch a new series of live, online programs on September 16 with the aim to provide a virtual space for regular, casual, community conversations and learning as social distancing and safer-at-home orders continue into the fall for seniors and other vulnerable residents.

The weekly series will kick off on Sept. 16 at 2 p.m. with Derry Memories, an author talk and conversation with locally-based historian Margo Shea, focused on her newly released book “Derry City: Memory and Political Struggle in Northern Ireland.”

With this program, participants will be able to engage with members of their local community and stimulate their intellectual curiosity, free of charge.

The program series is open to all members of the public, but has been specially designed to address the needs of area seniors, many of whom continue to be socially isolated as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic (Massachusetts Safer-at-Home order continues to advise those over 65 and with vulnerabilities to “to stay home except for es-

The series aims to combat some of the dangers of prolonged social isolation for local seniors and other members of the public

sential errands”).

In an effort to mitigate the high levels of loneliness and low levels of cognitive and social stimulation that many are facing, Wistariahurst is launching this series to provide positive engagement, learning and stimulation during this time. A growing field of research has shown that history programming, in particular, is linked to positive health benefits for those at risk for dementia and memory loss.

“Working with our city colleagues, we were able to identify a way for us to play a role in the public health efforts that are keeping residents in Holyoke and beyond safe during these challenging times,” Wistariahurst Curator and Holyoke City Historian, Penni Martorell said. “Social isolation carries documented risks for cognitive decline and memory loss for people of all ages, especially seniors. This series features

authors, scholars, storytellers and performers offering discussions on a wide range of topics. The sessions can provide a weekly check-in space to learn, tell stories, be challenged, and hear from others.”

The program is supported through a Community Development Block Grant - COVID-19 Grant to address, prevent and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic that is administered through the Holyoke Office of Community Development. The programs are being planned in consultation with the Holyoke Council on Aging, who received similar funding to provide Holyoke seniors with Chromebooks and training.

The weekly programs will focus on a diverse range of historical and cultural topics including programs on nature, art, history, travel and social justice. Upcoming presentations are set to in-

clude the natural history of the Pioneer Valley, the labor movement and women’s organizing in local factories, and the history of Holyoke’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade.

The first lecture of the series, Derry Memories, will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 16 at 2 p.m. Facilitated by Wistariahurst staff and hosted by Salem State University assistant professor of history, Margo Shea, the talk will center the very idea of memory and history. Shea will explore Derry during the decades before the Troubles to show how people, without much in the way of financial resources or political power, made their mark and held their own by drawing on the past. According to Shea’s recently published research, expressions of memory did much more than simply explain the past in Derry, they also illuminated a way forward.

To register for Derry Memories or any future programs, please visit www.Wistariahurst.org or contact Eileen Maginnis at the Holyoke Council on Aging at maginnise@holyokey.org. If you have an idea for a topic you’d like to be considered for a future Wistariahurst session, please contact info@wistariahurst.org.

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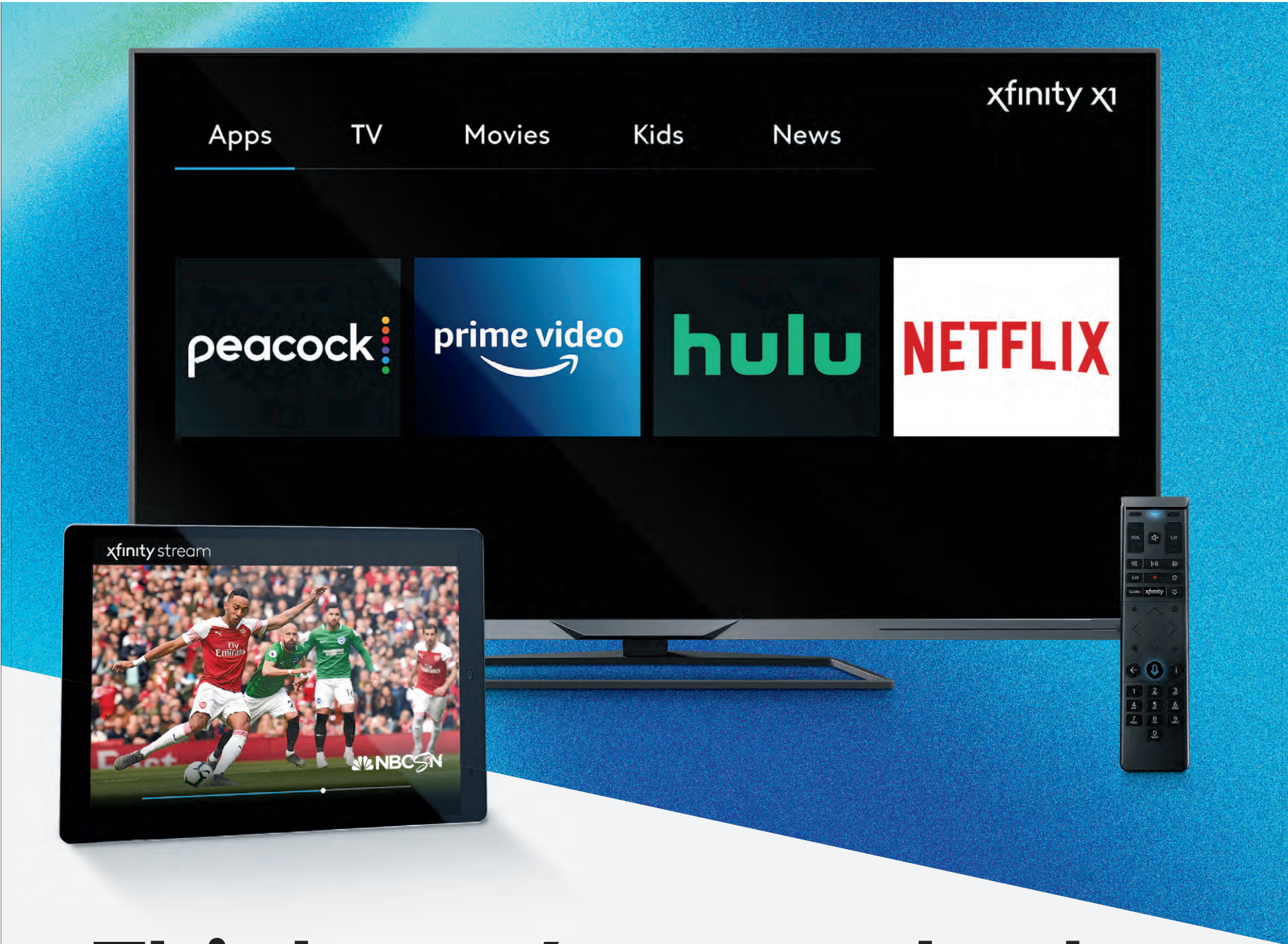
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